



Atty. Dkt. No. 065686-0157

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Motoi YAMAGUCHI
Title: INPUT PROTECTION CIRCUIT
Appl. No.: 10/631,803
Filing Date: 08/01/2003
Examiner: Ronald W. LEJA
Art Unit: 2836

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of a foreign office communication.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The documents listed on the attached PT0/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A partial English translation of the Japanese Office Action of June 27, 2006, follows:

1. The inventions related to the following claims of the present application could have been easily invented by a person with ordinary knowledge of technology in the field to which the inventions belong prior to the filing of this application based on the inventions recited in the publications below, which had been distributed in Japan or abroad, or inventions which became publicly available via telecommunication lines, prior to the filing of this application, and therefore cannot receive a patent according to the stipulations of Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

Notes (for the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature)

Reason 1

Regarding Claims 1 and 2

Cited Literature 1 through 4

Remarks

Comparing the present invention to the invention described in Cited Literature 1 or Cited Literature 2, the present invention differs from Cited Literature 1 and 2 in that it has a protective means at both ends of the input resistor.

However, Figure 3 of Cited Literature 3 and Figure 4 of Cited Literature 4 disclose the technique of forming a protective diode on both ends of an input resistor, and using the technique disclosed by Cited Literature 3 and 4 in Cited Literature 1 and 2

is a matter which could be easily conceived of by a person skilled in the art.

Furthermore, no remarkable difficulty is found in connecting the protective diodes formed at both ends on an input resistor to reverse potentials.

Regarding Claims 3, 4, and 6

Cited Literature 1 through 4

Remarks

The inventions related to the aforementioned claims do no more than to limit simple design matters, and since no effect that could not be anticipated by a person skilled in the art is found as a result of these limitations, the present inventions are not found to have inventive step based on the matters limited by the aforementioned claims.

Regarding Claim 5

Cited Literature 1 through 5

Remarks

Figure 3a of Cited Literature 5 discloses the technique of connecting a feedback resistor by switching a plurality of resistors. Using the technique disclosed by Cited Literature 5 in Cited Literature 1 and 2 is a matter that could be easily conceived of by a person skilled in the art.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-022077
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2002-151652
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S61-019163
4. Japanese Utility Model Application S62-082740 (Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Application Publication S63-191653) microfilm

5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H05-267458

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

- Fields searched IPC

H01L 27/04

H01L 21/822

- Prior art literature

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2003-158193

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S56-045067

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S61-119073

This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection.

Document D1 is a U.S. counterpart of Document D3.

Document D2 is a U.S. counterpart of Document D6.

Application's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Application with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.704(d) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

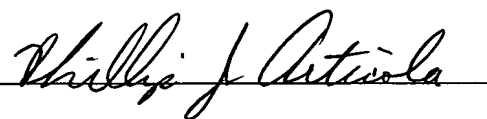
Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 27, 2006

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By



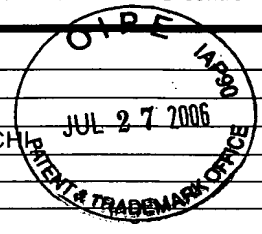
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38,819

for /

David A. Blumenthal
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: July 27, 2006 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/631,803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>08/01/2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Motoi YAMAGUCHI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>2836</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Ronald W. LEJA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>065686-0157</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	10/631,803	Filing Date	08/01/2003	First Named Inventor	Motoi YAMAGUCHI	Group Art Unit	2836	Examiner Name	Ronald W. LEJA	Attorney Docket Number	065686-0157
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Sheet	1	of	1														



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	D1	2003/0063503	A1	KIUCHI et al.	04-03-2003	
	D2	5,107,146		EL-AYAT	04-21-1992	

UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	D3	JP	2003-158193	A	FUJI ELECTRIC CO. LTD.	05-30-2003	A
	D4	JP	2002-151652	A	HITACHI LTD.	05-24-2002	A
	D5	JP	2000-022077	A	FUJITSU TEN LTD.	01-21-2000	A
	D6	JP	05-267458		ACTEL CORP.	10-15-1993	A
	D7	JP	63-191653			12-09-1988	
	D8	JP	61-119073		NEC CORP.	06-06-1986	A
	D9	JP	61-019163		MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO. LTD.	01-28-1986	A
	D10	JP	56-045067		HITACHI LTD.	04-24-1981	A

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.